MS 10767

RCM

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SOCIETY OF WOMEN MUSICIANS held on Wednesday 9th December 1970 at Flat 14, 96/100 New Cavendish St., London, W.1. (by kind invitation of Barbara Bendixson) at 10.30 a.m.

Present:- Margaret Paterson (in the Chair), Marian Attwood, Barbara Bendixson, Antonia Butler, Muriel Dawson Hon. Treas., Carola Grindea, Dora Hanes, Angela Hichey, Kathleen Hurran, Eleanor Retallack, Grace Shearer, Delia Woolford, Noreen Mason

In attendance Sarah Greenwood

1. Apologies for Absence were received from Phyllis Norbrook, Jennifer Partridge, Joan Kemp-Potter, Margaret Benselin, Anna Berenska, Rosemary Brown, Elizabeth Janes, and Eleanor Richards.

2. The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 11th November 1970, having been distributed, and after amendment on Item 4 were approved and signed.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes:-

a. On Item 1(c) the Chairman reported that she had received a most appreciative letter from Grace Barrons Richardson, thanking the Council and saying that she had been only too happy to help the Society in its emergency.

b. Item 5 Anna Berenska had still not received the correspondence from Valerie Trimble and the Chairman thought that a letter should be sent from the secretary if that was agreeable to Anna.

c. On Item 7 (i) now that the Chairman had learned that Gerald Moore and his wife would be spending Christmas at home, the gift of sherry and flowers agreed by the Council at their last meeting would be sent to his home.

(ii) the question of 4, St. James's Square would be dealt with as a Special Item.

(iii) a message had been received from Nicholas Choveaux saying that Frans Brueggen would not be in London in March the month suggested for him to give a Master Class, but would be happy to give one in May. His fee for this would be £75 which was £15 more than he had accepted last year, but the Council felt that negotiations should continue in view of the fact that this had been a highly successful class last year resulting in a profit of £58 to the Society. The Secretary was instructed to cancel the March dates and try to book May 22nd at the Rudolf Steiner Hall.

The Honorary Treasurer having been delayed the Council continued with No. 5.

5. Auditions in the absence of Anna Berenska there was nothing to report.

6. Ivimey Concerts The Chairman thought that a few notes about the artists on the back of the programme at these concerts would be of great interest and asked the Secretary if this could be done next time. The Secretary pointed out that the only difficulty was one of cost, stencils were becoming very expensive and to use two for about 30 programmes was rather extravagant, she would however be willing to do typewritten programmes with notes on the back if she could have the data in good time.

7. Master Classes dealt with under Item 3.

The Hon. Treas. having arrived the Council continued with No. 4

4. Hon. Treasurer's Report Muriel Dawson reported that the finances of the Society were reasonably healthy, she had just received the bank statement showing that we had a little over £200 credit; but among the outstanding bills was one for £40 from the Ministry of Public Building and Works. It was then proposed by Kathleen Hurran and seconded by Barbara Bendixson that the Hon. Secretary's honorarium should be paid.

8. Forthcoming Events Anna Berenska had telephoned the Chairman and reported that the sale of tickets for the Christmas Party was much lower than expected, only about 100 tickets had been sold. The Chairman urged all members of the Council to make a special effort to encourage members and their friends to come.

Duties at the Christmas Party were then arranged as follows:-

Cloakroom	Carola Grindea
Flowers	Hope Hambourg Dora Hanes
Christmas Tree	The Chairman
Tickets at the door	Muriel Dawson Sarah Greenwood
Artists' refreshment	Barbara Bendixson

The Chairman said that although Kathleen Hurran and her husband, Dennis Marlow, would be in charge of the buffet supper, she hoped that Council Members would help to look after our guests. The Secretary was then asked to write to Rosemary Brown and ask if her husband, Jack Conry would be willing to look after the male artists. She was also instructed to see that all Council Members were given a name badge to wear.

9. Publicity nothing to report

10. Opera Block Bookings Marian Attwood offered six tickets for The Mikado to Council Members. These were taken up immediately.

11. Special Item The Chairman reported that she had written to the Prime Minister concerning our troubles regarding 4, St James's Square, and had delivered the letter by hand on Monday 30th November 1970. She had received an acknowledgement from Mr Heath's secretary. In addition she had received an exceedingly sympathetic letter from Mr Paul Channon now Parliamentary Secretary to the Department of the Environment (lately the Ministry of Public Building and Works) who unfortunately could not help. There is still a faint hope that the Prime Minister may issue a directive in our favour concerning the Great Drawing-Room. Muriel Dawson said that she had attended the Wagner Concert on Saturday 5th December and had found 4, St. James's Square in an advanced state of 'take over' with carpets removed, cloak-rooms locked and no facilities for either refreshments or social gathering. She feared that there was little hope of a reprieve in this direction, and thought that we should consider the safety of our Steinway piano which appeared to be surrounded by workmen without adequate protection. The only communication concerning the piano had been a telephone call from Mr Searle requesting us to have it moved, to which Muriel Dawson had explained that the Society would require a letter of authority before any action would be taken. Less important was the question of the other possessions of the Society at present housed at 4, St James's Square namely the standard lamp and cupboard full of crockery.

The Chairman said she understood only too well the concern felt by the Council over the piano but was anxious that there should not be a double move. She felt that we should wait until such time as a definite ruling concerning the Great Drawing-Room had been received. Should this be in the negative, we would at once arrange with Steinway for its storage. In the meantime, it would be as well to remove the crockery and lamp. Barbara Bendixson felt that the cupboard was not worth moving, but agreed to attend to the crockery. This brought the Chairman back to the bill we owed the Ministry of Public Building and Works. She said that since 4, St

James's Square had been taken over by that Ministry, the Society had lost their long mirror, flower vase and a number of electric plugs. In the circumstances we should consider whether or not to pay the full amount.

It was suggested that for the next three months we should hold our events in private studios, and in the absence of Kathleen Hurran, the Council wondered whether she would be willing to have them in her studio if she was released from the Ivimey Concert on February 9th, which Eleanor Retallack said she would be willing to have at her home.

12. Correspondence The Chairman reported that she had received enthusiastic acceptance of Fellowship of the Society from:-

S.J.Saunders
Dennis Marlow
Cyril Smith
Myers Foggin
and Ivor Walsworth, who had become F.R.A.M.

The only letter that the Secretary had received that required attention was one from Mrs Marshall, in answer to the letter sent to her suggesting that she might like to submit her songs to our panel of adjudicators. Mrs Marshall asks the Secretary to do this and let her know the result. Her songs along with her other works are at present at 112, Church Road, Richmond, Surrey.

13. Membership Application for membership had been received from :-

Miss Elaine Murdoch (composer))	
Miss Marian E. Pratt (anateur singer))	all proposed by
Mrs Helen Gates (prof. pianist))	Barbara Bendixson
Miss Pamela Okell (prof. singer))	and seconded by
Miss Sarah Greenwood)	Carola Grindea

There were no resignations, but the Membership Secretary reported that she had not received any answers to the letters concerning their membership sent to :- Miss Stickland, Miss Seaborn, Miss Gulley and Miss Weeks. In view of this their resignations would now be accepted. She also reported that once again she had received a cheque for £10 from Betsy Frost - part subscription and part donation which she would acknowledge.

14. Other Business The whole question of planning the year's events came under discussion; in view of the uncertainty existing at the present time, it was impossible to get our programme for the spring to the printers. This would mean little if any publicity for the spring concerts, which would be very hard on any artists engaged. Noreen Mason said she would find out what her husband, Gordon Heard, felt about this. The question arose about the proposed programme of Light Music as the other spring event. The Composer's Play-in must also be considered. The Chairman said that the spring seemed to her to be the right time for Light Music. This was backed by Antonia Butler who thought that Composers would want a little time to decide what works they wished to submit, or even to compose something. This meant that in the summer there would be a recital by Nicola and Cecil Aronowitz either on May 5th or 6th, Frans Brueggen's Master Class on May 22nd and the Composer's Play-in (date to be arranged). This would bring us to the special items arranged for the Diamond Jubilee in July.

There was then the suggestion from the Chairman that there should be an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council entirely devoted to the future of the Society in view of the difficulties and lack of support being experienced at the present time. This will take place on Sunday 31st January 1971 at 3 p.m. at Flat 14, 96/100 New Cavendish Street, by kind invitation of Barbara Bendixson.

The meeting closed with thanks to Barbara Bendixson for the use of her flat, and to the Secretary for attending and taking the minutes.